

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A cover for a board having a top, a bottom and a pair of opposed sides, the cover comprising a top portion, and a pair of opposed side portions downwardly depending from the top portion to frictionally receive and grip the board between the side portions when the cover is positioned on the board, each of the cover's side portions defining at least one slot adapted to extend around portions of another board positioned below the board when the cover is positioned on the board, the cover's top portion including a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly and downwardly from each said side edge of the top portion.

2. (Original) The cover of claim 1 wherein each of the slots is sized to accommodate the another board when the another board is positioned relative to the board at an angle between about forty-five degrees and about ninety degrees.

3. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 1 wherein each of the cover's side portions includes at least one opening therein for venting an area between the board and the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

4. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 3 wherein the openings in the cover's side portions are at least partially covered by the overhangs ~~the cover's top portion includes a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges, each of the overhangs projecting downwardly to at least a location of the corresponding at least one opening.~~

5. (Withdrawn) The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover's top portion includes a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

6. (Withdrawn) The cover of claim 1 wherein the cover's side portions are inwardly angled to frictionally receive and grip the board between the side portions when the cover is positioned on the board.

7. (Original) The cover of claim 1 wherein the side portions include inwardly bent portions for engaging the bottom of the board.

8. (Currently Amended) A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top, a bottom, and a pair of opposed sides, at least one joist below the floorboard, and at least one cover having a top portion and a pair of opposed side portions downwardly depending from the top portion, the cover's top portion and side portions being adapted to generally cover at least the top and sides of the floorboard, each of the cover's side portions including at least one slot adapted to extend around portions of the joist when the cover is positioned on the floorboard, the cover's top portion including a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly and downwardly from each said side edge of the top portion, the cover's side portions having openings therein for venting an area between the floorboard and the cover when the cover is positioned on the floorboard, the openings in the cover's side portions being at least partially covered by the overhangs.

9. (Original) The deck of claim 8 wherein the cover's side portions are adapted to frictionally receive and grip the floorboard between the side portions when the cover is positioned on the floorboard.

10. (Original) The deck of claim 8 wherein each of the slots is sized to accommodate the joist when the joist is positioned relative to the floorboard at an angle between about forty-five degrees and about ninety degrees.

11. (Original) The deck of claim 8 wherein the joist is positioned generally perpendicular to the floorboard.

12. (Original) The deck of claim 8 wherein the joist is positioned at an oblique angle relative to the floorboard.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) The deck of claim 8 wherein the cover's top portion includes a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

16. (Original) The deck of claim 8 wherein the cover's side portions include inwardly bent portions for engaging the bottom of the floorboard.

17. (Currently Amended) A cover for an elongate deck component having a top, a bottom, and a pair of opposed sides, the cover comprising a top portion, and a pair of opposed side portions downwardly depending from the top portion, the cover's top portion and side portions being adapted to generally cover at least the top and sides of the deck component, each of the cover's side portions including at least one opening therein for venting an area between the cover and the deck component when the cover is positioned on the deck component, the cover's top portion including a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly and downwardly from each

said side edge of the top portion, the openings in the cover's side portions being at least partially covered by the overhangs.

18. (Original) The cover of claim 17 wherein the deck component comprises a floorboard of a deck.

19. (Original) The cover of claim 18 wherein each of the cover's side portions define at least one slot adapted to extend around portions of a joist positioned below the floorboard when the cover is positioned on the floorboard.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The cover of claim 17 wherein the top portion includes a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

22. (Original) The cover of claim 17 wherein the side portions are adapted to frictionally receive and grip the deck component between the side portions when the cover is positioned on the deck component.

23. (Original) The cover of claim 22 wherein the side portions include engagement portions for engaging the bottom of the deck component.

✓ 24. (Withdrawn) A method for protecting a board in a deck, the board having a top, a bottom and a pair of opposed sides, the method comprising positioning on the board a cover having a top portion and a pair of opposed side portions downwardly depending from the top portion such that slots defined in the cover's side portions extend around portions of another board positioned below the board.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 further comprising venting an area between the cover and the board when the cover is positioned on the board.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the positioning comprises frictionally engaging the board between the cover's side portions.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein the positioning comprising using one of an adhesive and a mechanical fastener to further engage the cover with the board.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 further comprising positioning at least one plywood board on the board, and wherein positioning a cover on the board comprises positioning the cover on the plywood board.

29. (New) The cover of claim 1, wherein each said overhang is curved generally downwardly relative to the cover's top portion for forming a drip edge to facilitate the flow of liquid off the cover's top portion.

30. (New) The deck of claim 8, wherein each said overhang is curved generally downwardly relative to the cover's top portion for forming a drip edge to facilitate the flow of liquid off the cover's top portion.

31. (New) The cover of claim 17, wherein each said overhang is curved generally downwardly relative to the cover's top portion for forming a drip edge to facilitate the flow of liquid off the cover's top portion.